

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration.

The claim amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification, for example, page 14 line 19 to page 15, line 9.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §112

Claims 4, 8, and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph relative to lack of antecedent basis of the recitation "the accumulated log-in count." The claims are amended herewith to correct the noted informality. No new matter is added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0121110 to Chang et al. (hereinafter "Chang"). Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0148526 to Sands et al. (hereinafter "Sands").

Amended independent claims 1 and 9 patentably distinguish over Chang and Sands at least by reciting "storing security level with the last log-in date related to the security level, wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined by raising the security level when a period longer than a predetermined period has elapsed since the last log-in time."

Amended independent claim 5 patentably distinguishes over Chang and Sands at least by reciting "a security level storing module storing a security level with a last log-in date related to the security level, wherein the log-in procedure judging module determines the log-in procedure by raising the security level when a period longer than a predetermined period has elapsed since the last log-in time."

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

Claims 2, 6, and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chang in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,079,652 to Harris ("Harris"). Claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chang in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,475,839 by Watson ("Watson"). Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sands in view of Watson.

The newly cited prior art references, Harris and Watson, do not correct or compensate for the above-identified failure of Chang and Sands in disclosing all the features recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9.

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 are amended herewith to correspond to amended claims 1, 5, and 9 and to recite additional features. The claim amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification, for example, page 14, oline 19 to page 15, line 9, and page 21, lines 2-22. No new matter is added.

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 depending from claims 1, 5, and 9, respectively, are patentable by inheriting patentable features from the independent claims and by reciting additional patentable features. For example, none of the cited prior art references teach or suggest "wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined by lowering the security level when the period since the last log-in time is shorter than a short predetermined period" as recited in claims 3 and 11.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/773,338

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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